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# THE Poultry and Egg SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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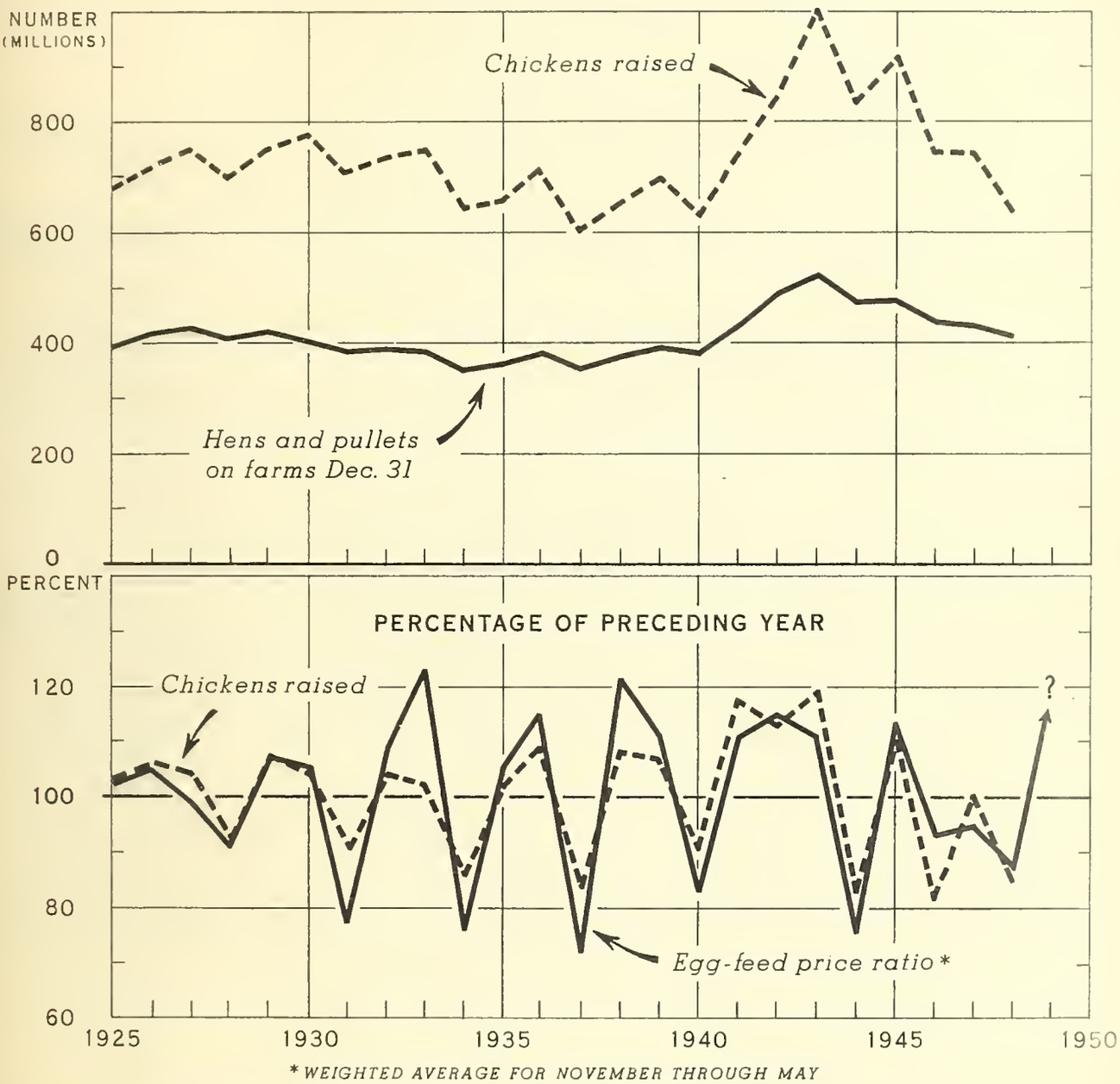
## CHICKENS RAISED, HENS AND PULLETS ON FARMS DECEMBER 31, AND EGG-FEED PRICE RATIO, UNITED STATES, 1925-48




*WEIGHTED AVERAGE FOR NOVEMBER THROUGH MAY

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG 46894 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

The egg-feed price ratio in the first half of 1948 was considerably below the corresponding period of 1947. Numbers of chickens raised in 1948 were the lowest since 1940 and culling of old birds in early 1948 was heavier than usual. The number of hens and pullets on farms at the beginning of 1949 also is likely to be the lowest since 1940. However, in line with past relationships, the more favorable egg-feed price ratio in prospect for late 1948 and early 1949 is likely to induce a substantial increase in the number of chickens raised in 1949.

The Poultry and Egg Situation at a Glance

| Item | Unit | Month | Average 1937-46 | 1947 | 1948 | Month | Average 1937-46 | 1947 | 1948 | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Eggs** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Farm production | Mil.doz. | July | 326.1 | 376.9 | 371.6 | Aug. | 281.6 | 318.2 | 326.8 | Aug. production 3 percent above 1947 |
| Average number of layers on farms | Million | do. | 285.2 | 306.1 | 294.0 | do. | 276.8 | 296.1 | 286.7 | Numbers off 3 percent from Aug.1947 |
| Rate of lay per hen | Number | do. | 13.7 | 14.8 | 15.2 | do. | 12.2 | 12.9 | 13.7 | Aug. rate up 6 percent over 1947 |
| Apparent civilian per capita disappearance | do. | do. | 28.2 | 31.7 | 31.6 | do. | 27.5 | 30.2 | 31.2 | |
| Frozen egg production | Mil.lb. | do. | --- | 22.7 | 17.7 | do. | --- | 15.4 | 7.5 | |
| Dried egg production | do. | do. | --- | 9.1 | 1.3 | do. | --- | 9.0 | 5.9 | |
| Prices received by farmers | Ct.per doz. | do. | 27.0 | 45.7 | 45.8 | do. | 28.9 | 47.5 | 49.2 | Highest on record for both months |
| Prices received by farmers as a percentage of parity | Percent | do. | 91 | 98 | 89 | do. | 90 | 94 | 91 | |
| Retail price (BAE) | Ct.per doz. | June | 34.2 | 58.5 | 62.5 | July | 36.1 | 63.8 | 64.2 | Highest on record for both months |
| Egg-feed ratio | Lb.feed | July | 11.6 | 10.9 | 10.4 | Aug. | 12.4 | 10.9 | 12.1 | Rapidly becoming more favorable than last year |
| Stocks: 1/ | | | | | | | | | | |
| Shell | 1,000 cases | do. | 7,761 | 4,268 | 5,525 | do. | 6,897 | 3,807 | 4,636 | September lowest on record except for 1947 |
| Frozen | do. | do. | 6,228 | 6,442 | 6,863 | do. | 5,873 | 6,252 | 6,242 | August out-movement heavy |
| Dried | Mil.lb. | do. | --- | 42.2 | 20.0 | do. | --- | 41.7 | 25.7 | About all U.S.D.A. owned |
| Chicks hatched | Million | do. | 467.4 | 48.1 | 55.8 | do. | 318.4 | 36.3 | 47.5 | Highest since 1945 |
| Potential layers on farms 1/ 2/ | do. | do. | 622.0 | 601.8 | 563.8 | do. | 593.2 | 565.1 | 536.7 | Below last year and below 1942-46 av. |
| Pullets of laying age | do. | do. | 308.0 | 296.7 | 285.1 | do. | 306.5 | 295.5 | 288.3 | |
| Pullets not of laying age | do. | do. | 314.0 | 305.2 | 278.7 | do. | 286.7 | 269.6 | 248.4 | |
| Farm price of poultry ration | do. | do. | 2.36 | 4.20 | 4.40 | do. | 2.34 | 4.35 | 4.07 | Down 7 1/2 percent from July to Aug. |
| **Chickens** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Prices received by farmers for chickens | Ct.per lb. | July | 20.0 | 28.1 | 31.9 | Aug. | 19.9 | 26.9 | 32.5 | Highest on record for both months |
| Prices received by farmers as a percentage of parity | Percent | do. | 116 | 107 | 112 | do. | 115 | 101 | 114 | |
| Retail price of chickens (BAE) | Ct.per lb. | June | 35.0 | 49.1 | 55.9 | July | 34.1 | 47.2 | 54.3 | Highest on record for both months |
| Prices received by farmers for turkeys | do. | July | 21.6 | 29.5 | 40.5 | Aug. | 21.9 | 30.8 | 43.2 | Already at record levels |
| Stocks: 1/ | | | | | | | | | | |
| Poultry, excluding turkeys | Mil.lb. | do. | 66.6 | 115.3 | 72.0 | do. | 79.8 | 138.3 | 75.8 | Close to average |
| Turkeys | do. | do. | 22.7 | 59.3 | 19.2 | do. | 17.5 | 44.7 | 13.2 | Lowest since 1943 |
| Chicken-feed ratio | Lb.feed | do. | 9.4 | 6.7 | 7.2 | do. | 9.3 | 6.2 | 8.0 | Still below average |
| Turkey-feed ratio | do. | do. | 9.3 | 7.0 | 9.2 | do. | 9.7 | 7.1 | 10.6 | Most favorable since 1945 |
| Receipts of poultry at Central Western Primary Markets, per plant | 1,000 lb. | do. | 19.0 | 23.0 | 20.4 | do. | 24.6 | 24.5 | 23.2 | August lowest since 1941 |

1/ End of month.
2/ 1942-46 average.

# THE POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, September 28, 1948

## SUMMARY

Farm prices for eggs are likely to average almost as high in 1949 as in 1948, although they may be slightly higher during the first half, but somewhat lower in the fourth quarter as compared with 1948. Chicken and broiler prices are expected to average lower during 1949, with the largest decrease from 1948 occurring during the latter months of the year. Prices for turkeys next year also are likely to average somewhat lower than in 1948, particularly during the heavy marketing months.

Total returns from farm sales of poultry products in 1949 are not likely to be quite as high as during 1948. Cash farm receipts from eggs and broilers may be lower with broilers down the most. Cash farm receipts from chickens and turkeys should be about the same. Lower feed prices may more than offset the drop in receipts so that net farm incomes from poultry products are likely to average higher even though many other costs may remain high.

Egg production during the first two quarters of 1949 is likely to be about 3 percent under 1948. By the fourth quarter of 1949, however, production is expected to be higher than during the latter months of this year. Total 1949 egg production may be about as large as in 1948. A continuation of the upward trend in rate of lay is likely.

An increase of about 15 percent in the number of chickens raised is probable in 1949. This, if realized, would result by 1950 in unusually high egg production. Lower feed prices, resulting from increased feed supplies and egg prices almost as high as this year will result in a more favorable egg-feed price relationship, particularly during the hatching season. Commercial broiler production in 1949 is likely to be about as large as in 1948. Record high prices for turkeys during the 1948 marketing season and lower feed prices in late 1948 and early 1949 are likely to result in about 15 percent more turkeys raised in 1949.

Domestic demand for poultry products is likely to remain strong through most of 1949, with some lowering possible by the last quarter when a substantial increase is expected in pork supplies. Consumer expenditures for eggs, chickens, and turkeys probably will be close to 1948 levels. Less than 4 percent of 1948 egg supplies and an insignificant percentage of poultry went to foreign outlets. Such outlets are likely to be even smaller in 1949.

On the basis of likely production, per capita consumption of eggs in 1949 probably will be about the same as in 1948. Per capita consumption of chicken and turkeys, on the other hand, probably will be higher.

## OUTLOOK FOR 1949

### Demand for Poultry Products to Continue Strong

Largely as a result of high-level consumer incomes, demand for food products has attained record proportions in 1948. For the first 6 months of 1948, disposable income was at a record annual rate of 185 billion dollars, 10 percent above a year earlier. Exports of all farm products were moderately smaller in 1948 than in 1947. With over-all food supplies per person 4 percent smaller than last year, the increased level of consumer buying power was reflected in food prices somewhat higher than those of 1947.

It is expected that consumer incomes will continue at high levels during the rest of 1948 and in 1949, although there may be a slight down-turn late in 1949. For 1949 as a whole, however, consumer incomes probably will average about the same as in 1948. It is probable that the percentage of disposable income spent for food in 1949 will decline from the 28 percent in 1947 and 1948, but will be above the 23 percent of the 1935-39 period. With an increase in total food production in 1949, the general level of food prices may be slightly lower than the average for 1948.

Demand for poultry products in 1949 is not likely to be substantially different from 1948. Consumer expenditures for eggs, chickens, and turkeys probably will be close to 1948 levels. Slightly smaller egg supplies probably will be partly offset by slightly higher average prices during the first half of 1949 than in the first half of 1948. On the other hand, midwestern egg prices may average no higher than in 1948. Lower average prices for chickens and turkeys in 1949 may be nearly offset by increased consumption. A further factor which may tend to lower the demand for poultry products somewhat is the slightly larger meat supplies expected during the latter part of 1949.

### Smaller 1949 Exports Likely

In most years prior to World War II exports and imports did not materially affect the domestic situation for poultry and eggs. Moderate improvement in egg output in foreign countries in 1949, continued shortages of dollars, and increased availability of other foodstuffs, may result in an appreciable reduction in export outlets for shell eggs and egg products. The 1948 outlets, particularly for relief feeding, have been larger than previously anticipated. These requirements have been largely met from dried egg stocks acquired by the Department of Agriculture in price-support operations. There has been an increase in U. S. imports of poultry from Canada in 1948, but with heavier domestic production in 1949, this volume is likely to be smaller.

### Egg Prices Probably Higher During First Half of 1949 Than 1948 but Lower in Second Half

Egg prices are likely to average almost as high in 1949 as in 1948. During the first half of the year they are expected to average somewhat higher. By the last quarter, however, egg prices are likely to be lower than in 1948.

In the first half of 1949 continued strong consumer demand, smaller egg supplies, and smaller meat supplies with continuing high meat prices, all will act to strengthen egg prices compared with the same period of 1948. By the last quarter of 1949, these factors are not likely to be a strengthening influence. Increased numbers of chickens raised will result in egg production higher than a year earlier. Consumer incomes may decline and increased meat supplies probably will result in lower meat prices.

## Egg Production About the Same as in 1948

The U. S. Department of Agriculture recently announced a goal for hens and pullets on January 1, 1949 of 425 million, about the same as a year earlier. However, this number may not be reached because of the 15 percent decrease in the number of farm chickens raised in 1948 and the heavy rate of culling of layers in the early months of the year. Despite lighter culling in recent months, the number of layers on farms in August 1948 was still 3 percent smaller than in August 1947. The number of pullets not of laying age on farms September 1 was 248 million, 8 percent below a year ago. Although farmers probably will carry over a larger-than-usual percentage of the 537 million potential layers on farms September 1, 1948, numbers by January 1, 1949 are likely to be about 5 percent smaller than a year earlier.

The long-time upward trend in the rate of lay is likely to continue during 1949. During 1948, the average annual rate of lay may exceed the 1947 record rate of 158 eggs partly as a result of the heavy culling early in 1948. On the basis of number of hens and pullets on farms January 1, 1948, the rate of lay this year should about equal last year's 127 eggs per bird.

Egg production during the first and second quarters of 1949 is likely to be about 3 percent under corresponding quarters of 1948. However, in the latter half of the year, output will increase relative to corresponding months of 1948 and by the fourth quarter it may be running higher than a year earlier. For the year 1949, total egg production may be about the same as the 4.9 billion dozen indicated for 1948, which was about 2 percent below 1947, but nearly 50 percent above 1935-39.

## Larger Feed Supplies for 1949

Total supplies of all feed concentrates for the 1948-49 season will be considerably above those of 1947-48. Increased supplies of feed grains will be the main reason, although big crops of cotton and soybeans will provide more vegetable protein concentrates. Supplies of animal protein are expected to be about the same. The 1948 crop of corn is of record proportions. Wheat supplies also are larger than a year ago and much higher than prewar. The total feed-grain supply for the year ahead, estimated at 142 million tons, is about a fifth higher than the average supply for the prewar years. The number of grain-consuming livestock to be fed during the year beginning in October is only slightly above the 1937-41 average.

## Egg-Feed Price Ratio to Average Higher

With egg prices slightly higher in early 1949 than during early 1948, feed supplies larger, and feed prices about one-fourth lower than a year earlier the egg-feed price ratio will be decidely more favorable for the first half of 1949. Assuming at least average crop yields, and with larger egg supplies resulting in lower egg prices, the egg-feed price ratio in the second half of 1947 may be about as favorable as in late 1948. For the year as a whole, the egg-feed price ratio is likely to average higher than in 1948.

Inasmuch as the extent to which most livestock production can be expanded within a year is limited, supplies per livestock unit in 1948-49 are expected to be one-fifth greater than in 1947-48. Sales of grain by farmers this year are expected to be much greater, and therefore, total supplies readily available for poultry production in deficit feed areas in 1949 are expected to be greater than during the current year. The improved feed situation over a year ago with substantially larger supplies at lower prices, is expected to play a major part in fostering an increase in the number of chickens and turkeys raised in 1949.

## Total Chicken Output in 1949 to be Greater Than 1948; Prices Likely to Average Lower

Total supplies of chicken in 1949 are expected to be somewhat greater than in 1948. Chicken prices during the first half of 1949, barring any serious overproduction of commercial broilers, are likely to be near this year's level. By late 1949, however, the increased volume of marketings is likely to depress prices below 1948 levels, assuming consumers' purchasing power near late 1948 levels. For 1949 as a whole, prices may average somewhat under this year. Any substantial decline in demand during the latter part of 1949, of course, would tend to lower chicken prices further relative to late 1948 levels.

An increase in the egg-feed price ratio from the previous year usually results in an increase in the number of farm chickens raised. With the more favorable egg-feed price ratio in prospect for the latter part of 1948 and the first half of 1949, the number of farm chickens raised is likely to be about 15 percent higher than in 1948. The increased production of poultry meat from farm flocks, however, will not become available in quantity until the second half of 1949.

Commercial broiler output for the year as a whole is likely to be about as large as in 1948, when numbers raised will approach the record year of 1945. In view of the larger feed supplies, substantial expansion of commercial broiler output is likely during the first half of 1949 compared to a year earlier. Increased broiler supplies would supplement smaller red meat supplies available from current slaughter and reduced withdrawals from storage of farm chickens and turkeys. By the latter half of 1949, however, larger market supplies of farm chickens, turkeys and red meat will compete to some extent with broilers.

Chicken-feed price ratios in 1949 are likely to average higher than in 1948, with the greatest relative improvement indicated for the first half of the year. The ratio probably will be lower by late 1949 than is expected for the latter months of 1948.

Turkey Output to Increase in 1949

Growers are likely to increase the number of turkeys raised at least 15 percent over the 31.7 million indicated for 1948. Record farm prices during the heavy marketing period of 1948, and larger supplies of feed at lower prices during both the final months of the 1948 growing season and the 1949 hatching season, are likely to bring about a larger output in 1949. In anticipation of the increased demand for poults during the 1949 hatching season, the number of breeder hens on farms January 1, 1949 will be larger than the 2.8 million on January 1, 1948.

Because of the improved feed situation in the latter months of the 1948 growing season, growers may feed turkeys to slightly heavier weights than in 1947. Larger-than-usual profits on birds stored during the past year will tend to bring about a larger into-storage turkey movement this year. Consequently, supplies for consumption during the 1948 holiday season may be slightly less than would otherwise be indicated by the 10 percent smaller number raised in 1948.

It is expected that growers will receive, on the average, somewhat lower prices for turkeys in 1949, particularly during the heavy marketing period. The greatest relative decline will be on the heavier sizes. The turkey-feed price ratio, however, should average higher for most of the year than in 1948, assuming average crop yields next year.

Egg Consumption Same; Chicken and Turkey Consumption up in 1949

Civilian per capita consumption of eggs in 1948 is likely to be slightly under the 380 eggs consumed in 1947, with 1949 about the same as 1948. Increased quantities of chicken and turkey, resulting from larger 1949 production, are likely to raise per capita consumption of chicken in 1949 somewhat above the preliminary indication of 22.5 pounds for 1948, and to increase the per capita consumption of turkey considerably above the 3.4 pounds indicated for 1948.

Cash Receipts from Poultry Products to be Almost as High as 1948, Net Incomes Higher

Poultrymen are expected to receive almost as much money in total farm sales of poultry products in 1949 as in 1948. Some decline from the expected 1948 record gross receipts from commercial broilers is likely in 1949. Cash farm receipts from eggs are expected to be slightly lower, while cash farm receipts from chickens and turkeys may be about the same. More favorable price-feed relationships than in 1948 should increase net income above 1948 levels, despite the fact that many other costs may remain high.

## Price Supports for Poultry Products

With shorter supplies and higher prices of eggs during the first half of 1949 compared with a year ago, the need for support purchases should be less. However, if the demand for shell and frozen eggs for storage should drop below that of 1948, even with shorter supplies, support purchases might be about as large as last year. Minimum support levels will be close to 1948 figures. As of August 15, 1948, the parity index stood at 251, the same as on January 15, 1948. Through the week of September 25, the United States Department of Agriculture had purchased the equivalent of about 77 million dozen eggs for 1948 price support purposes. Total purchases for price-support purposes in 1948 probably will be less than 2 percent of egg production.

No support programs on either chickens or turkeys have been necessary during 1948. Eggs, chickens, and turkeys are among the "Steagall" commodities which are to be supported at not less than 90 percent of parity through December 31, 1948. At present, the Department policy is to support eggs on a national annual basis.

Under the Agricultural Act of 1948, prices of chickens and eggs are to be supported at 90 percent of parity through December 31, 1949. Turkey prices will be supported at not less than 60 percent or not more than the levels at which the commodity was supported in 1948. Since the Department was committed to 90 percent in 1948, this means in effect 90 percent of 1948 parity.

Beginning January 1, 1950, the method of computing parity will be modified. The new method will result in parity prices relatively lower for eggs and higher for chickens and turkeys. At the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture, prices of these products may be supported at any level up to 90 percent of the amended parity, except that under certain conditions of emergency, levels can be established above 90 percent.

The Act also provides that any price-support operation undertaken with respect to either turkeys or chickens shall be applicable to all chickens, including broilers, after appropriate adjustments for differences in grade, type, quality, location and other factors. If any price-support operation is undertaken on either chickens or turkeys, the same parity price support operation must be undertaken with respect to ducks, ducklings, and other poultry. A more detailed analysis of the Agricultural Act of 1948 as it relates to eggs, chickens, and turkeys was published in the June-July 1948 Poultry and Egg Situation.

## Explanation of the Three Series on Eggs per Bird

With the substantial increases in the number of eggs per hen in recent years, a popular topic in the poultry industry, there may often be some apparent discrepancy in figures used or quoted. This situation may arise from the fact that the Bureau of Agricultural Economics publishes three different measures of the number of eggs per hen. It is desirable, therefore, to know how these three series are computed and what they represent.

The oldest series on eggs per hen per year dates back to 1909. It is obtained by dividing total annual U. S. farm egg production by the number of potential layers on farms as of January 1, which includes hens and pullets of laying age and also pullets not of laying age. This series is often referred to as the number of eggs produced per hen housed. It is an approximate measure of that factor, but does not allow for any additional culling or losses of pullets not of laying age that might occur before they begin to lay, nor for hens culled after the pullets are housed in the previous fall. Since total egg production and that part of the cost of egg production attributable to flock depreciation are both determined to a large extent by laying house death losses and culling, the eggs per hen housed series is regarded by many as an important measure of overall flock efficiency.

Prior to 1937, the number of eggs produced per year per potential layer January 1 had gradually edged upward, although showing considerable year-to-year variation. Some of the year-to-year variations are accounted for by the fact that January 1 numbers are likely to be low relative to total egg production for the year when numbers are increasing and high relative to total egg production when numbers are declining. The rate increased from about 86 eggs per hen in 1910-14 to about 93 in 1930-34. Starting in 1937, the rate of increase was much greater. Whereas in the 1935-39 period, eggs per hen averaged about 100, in 1940-44 the average was close to 110. Further sharp increases occurred during the late war and postwar periods and by 1947 a rate of 127 eggs per hen was attained.

The series usually designated as the average rate of lay (table 2, column 5) is obtained by dividing total annual U. S. farm egg production by the average number of layers on hand during the year. This latter number is a simple average of the average number of layers on farms during each month. The third series on annual rate of lay (table 2, column 6) is the sum of the eggs per 100 layers per month reduced to a per hen per year basis. In this series, monthly total U. S. egg production is divided by the average number of layers on farms during the month. Both of these series are measures of the performance of layers actually on hand and are derived from the same basic data. The difference in statistical procedure results in the third series varying up to 5 eggs greater than the series designated average rate of lay. Advocates of either the second or third series on output per bird may contend that good management of laying flocks requires a considerable degree of flexibility from year to year as regards the timing and intensity of culling, and, therefore, the object of good management should not be to retain a high percentage of January 1 potential layers irrespective of conditions.

Since the two latter series follow each other closely, conclusions drawn with respect to one series are approximately correct for the other. During the period 1925-29, the average rate of lay was 117 eggs per bird. A continuing upward trend resulted in an average of 128 eggs per bird for the 1935-39 period. In 1940-44, the average was 141 eggs. The number increased sharply after 1944 and reached 158 eggs per hen in 1947.

Table 1.-Egg-feed price ratio, chickens raised, and hens and pullets on farms December 31, United States, 1925-48

| Year | Egg-feed price ratio* (weighted average) | Chickens raised | Hens and pullets on farms December 31 | Percentage of preceding year | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Egg-feed price ratio | Chickens raised | Hens and pullets on farms |
| | Pounds | Millions | Millions | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| 1925 | 12.9 | 679 | 394 | 102 | 103 | 101 |
| 1926 | 13.5 | 718 | 415 | 105 | 106 | 105 |
| 1927 | 13.4 | 750 | 427 | 99 | 104 | 103 |
| 1928 | 12.2 | 700 | 404 | 91 | 93 | 95 |
| 1929 | 13.1 | 751 | 420 | 107 | 107 | 104 |
| 1930 | 13.8 | 777 | 402 | 105 | 104 | 96 |
| 1931 | 10.6 | 709 | 386 | 77 | 91 | 96 |
| 1932 | 11.6 | 736 | 391 | 109 | 104 | 101 |
| 1933 | 14.3 | 750 | 385 | 123 | 102 | 98 |
| 1934 | 10.9 | 644 | 350 | 76 | 86 | 91 |
| 1935 | 11.4 | 658 | 363 | 105 | 102 | 104 |
| 1936 | 13.1 | 715 | 380 | 115 | 109 | 105 |
| 1937 | 9.4 | 601 | 353 | 72 | 84 | 93 |
| 1938 | 11.4 | 651 | 376 | 121 | 108 | 107 |
| 1939 | 12.6 | 697 | 393 | 111 | 107 | 105 |
| 1940 | 10.4 | 634 | 381 | 83 | 91 | 97 |
| 1941 | 11.5 | 745 | 428 | 111 | 118 | 112 |
| 1942 | 13.2 | 844 | 489 | 115 | 113 | 114 |
| 1943 | 14.7 | 1,001 | 524 | 111 | 119 | 107 |
| 1944 | 11.2 | 832 | 474 | 76 | 83 | 90 |
| 1945 | 12.3 | 915 | 474 | 114 | 110 | 100 |
| 1946 | 11.9 | 746 | 436 | 93 | 82 | 92 |
| 1947 1/ | 11.3 | 745 | 428 | 95 | 100 | 101 |
| 1948 2/ | 9.8 | 635 | 410 | 86 | 85 | 96 |

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Tentative indications as of September 1948.

* Weights are as follows: November , 1; December, 2; January, 3; February, 4; March, 5; April, 3; May, 1.

Table 2.- Production on farms, hens and pullets on farms January 1, average number of layers, and rates of lay, United States, 1909-48

| Year | Total annual farm egg production | Hens and pullets on farms Jan. 1 | Eggs per hen 1/ | Average number of layers per year | Average rate of lay 2/ | Annual total of eggs per layer per month 3/ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Million | Million | Number | Million | Number | Number |
| 1909 | 25,300 | 305 | 83 | | | |
| 1910 | 27,000 | 319 | 85 | | | |
| 1911 | 29,400 | 342 | 86 | | | |
| 1912 | 28,300 | 329 | 86 | | | |
| 1913 | 28,100 | 327 | 86 | | | |
| 1914 | 27,900 | 328 | 85 | | | |
| 1915 | 29,900 | 340 | 88 | | | |
| 1916 | 28,800 | 331 | 87 | | | |
| 1917 | 27,700 | 322 | 86 | | | |
| 1918 | 28,000 | 326 | 86 | | | |
| 1919 | 30,500 | 351 | 87 | | | |
| 1920 | 29,700 | 341 | 87 | | | |
| 1921 | 30,800 | 332 | 93 | | | |
| 1922 | 33,000 | 354 | 93 | | | |
| 1923 | 35,000 | 372 | 94 | | | |
| 1924 | 34,592 | 390 | 89 | | | |
| 1925 | 34,969 | 391 | 90 | 311 | 113 | 114 |
| 1926 | 37,248 | 394 | 95 | 315 | 118 | 120 |
| 1927 | 38,627 | 415 | 93 | 330 | 117 | 118 |
| 1928 | 38,659 | 427 | 91 | 326 | 119 | 119 |
| 1929 | 37,921 | 404 | 94 | 318 | 119 | 121 |
| 1930 | 39,067 | 420 | 93 | 322 | 121 | 122 |
| 1931 | 38,552 | 402 | 96 | 303 | 127 | 129 |
| 1932 | 36,398 | 386 | 94 | 299 | 121 | 123 |
| 1933 | 35,514 | 391 | 91 | 300 | 118 | 119 |
| 1934 | 34,429 | 385 | 89 | 291 | 118 | 119 |
| 1935 | 33,609 | 350 | 96 | 276 | 122 | 124 |
| 1936 | 34,534 | 363 | 95 | 285 | 121 | 123 |
| 1937 | 37,564 | 380 | 99 | 288 | 130 | 131 |
| 1938 | 37,356 | 353 | 106 | 276 | 135 | 137 |
| 1939 | 38,843 | 376 | 103 | 290 | 134 | 136 |
| 1940 | 39,695 | 393 | 101 | 297 | 134 | 135 |
| 1941 | 41,878 | 381 | 110 | 300 | 139 | 142 |
| 1942 | 48,597 | 428 | 114 | 342 | 142 | 144 |
| 1943 | 54,539 | 489 | 112 | 383 | 142 | 144 |
| 1944 | 58,330 | 524 | 112 | 396 | 148 | 148 |
| 1945 | 55,858 | 474 | 118 | 369 | 151 | 152 |
| 1946 | 55,590 | 474 | 117 | 360 | 155 | 155 |
| 1947 4/ | 55,301 | 437 | 127 | 351 | 158 | 159 |
| 1948 5/ | 53,500 | 428 | 127 | 337 | 159 | 159 |

1/ Total annual farm egg production divided by number of hens and pullets on farms January 1. 2/ Total annual farm egg production divided by average number of layers for the year. 3/ Annual total of monthly rates of lay. For each month these are computed by dividing monthly farm egg production by average number of layers for the month. 4/ Preliminary. 5/ Tentative indications as of September 1948.

Table 3.-Egg production, numbers of chickens, broilers, and turkeys raised, prices received by farmers, and parity prices, United States, 1929-48

| Year | Eggs | | | Chickens | | | Broilers | | Turkeys | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Produced on farms | Prices received by farmers 1/ | Parity price | Number raised on farms | Prices received by farmers 1/ | Parity price | Number raised | Prices received by farmers 1/ | Number raised | Prices received by farmers 1/ |
| | Mil. doz. | Cents | Cents | Mil. | Cents | Cents | Mil. | Cents | Mil. | Cents |
| 1929 | 3,160 | 29.8 | 35.9 | 751 | 22.8 | 19.0 | | | 18 | 24.3 |
| 1930 | 3,256 | 23.7 | 34.2 | 777 | 18.4 | 18.2 | | | 17 | 20.0 |
| 1931 | 3,211 | 17.6 | 30.2 | 709 | 15.8 | 16.1 | | | 18 | 19.1 |
| 1932 | 3,025 | 14.2 | 26.5 | 736 | 11.8 | 14.1 | | | 22 | 12.7 |
| 1933 | 2,960 | 13.8 | 25.9 | 750 | 9.5 | 13.7 | | | 23 | 11.6 |
| 1934 | 2,869 | 17.1 | 27.8 | 644 | 11.3 | 14.7 | 34 | 19.3 | 22 | 15.1 |
| 1935 | 2,801 | 23.4 | 27.8 | 658 | 14.9 | 14.8 | 43 | 20.1 | 21 | 20.1 |
| 1936 | 2,878 | 21.8 | 27.5 | 715 | 15.8 | 14.5 | 53 | 20.7 | 28 | 15.6 |
| 1937 | 3,130 | 21.3 | 28.5 | 601 | 15.9 | 15.2 | 68 | 21.4 | 26 | 18.1 |
| 1938 | 3,113 | 20.3 | 27.1 | 651 | 15.4 | 14.4 | 82 | 19.0 | 27 | 17.5 |
| 1939 | 3,237 | 17.4 | 26.6 | 697 | 13.5 | 14.1 | 106 | 17.0 | 34 | 15.7 |
| 1940 | 3,308 | 18.0 | 26.9 | 634 | 13.2 | 14.2 | 143 | 17.3 | 34 | 15.4 |
| 1941 | 3,490 | 23.5 | 28.5 | 745 | 15.8 | 15.0 | 192 | 18.4 | 33 | 19.9 |
| 1942 | 4,050 | 30.0 | 32.0 | 844 | 19.0 | 17.1 | 228 | 22.9 | 33 | 27.5 |
| 1943 | 4,545 | 37.1 | 34.6 | 1,001 | 24.5 | 18.5 | 285 | 28.6 | 32 | 32.6 |
| 1944 | 4,877 | 32.5 | 35.9 | 832 | 24.0 | 19.3 | 265 | 28.7 | 36 | 34.0 |
| 1945 | 4,655 | 37.7 | 37.0 | 915 | 26.1 | 19.6 | 346 | 29.5 | 44 | 33.6 |
| 1946 | 4,632 | 37.5 | 41.6 | 746 | 28.0 | 22.0 | 276 | 32.6 | 41 | 36.2 |
| 1947 2/ | 4,608 | 45.3 | 49.8 | 745 | 26.8 | 26.3 | 283 | 32.1 | 35 | 36.3 |
| 1948 3/ | 4,500 | | | 635 | | | | | 32 | |

1/ Weighted average prices.
2/ Preliminary.
3/ Tentative indications as of September 1948.

Table 4.-Production and civilian consumption of eggs, chickens, and turkeys, United States, 1929-48

| Year | Eggs | | | | Chickens, including non-farm and broilers (dressed weight) | | | | Turkeys (dressed weight) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Production (Farm and non-farm) | | Civilian consumption | | Production | | Civilian consumption | | Production | | Civilian consumption | |
| | Total | Per capita | Total | Per capita | Total | Per capita | Total | Per capita | Total | Per capita | Total | Per capita |
| | Mil. doz. | Numbers | Mil. doz. | Numbers | Mil. lb. | Pounds | Mil. lb. | Pounds | Mil. lb. | Pounds | Mil. lb. | Pounds |
| 1929 | 3,476 | 343 | 3,393 | 332 | 2,442 | 20.1 | 2,415 | 19.8 | 213 | 1.7 | 213 | 1.7 |
| 1930 | 3,581 | 347 | 3,398 | 329 | 2,626 | 21.2 | 2,655 | 21.5 | 216 | 1.7 | 222 | 1.8 |
| 1931 | 3,532 | 340 | 3,439 | 331 | 2,426 | 19.4 | 2,418 | 19.4 | 214 | 1.7 | 214 | 1.7 |
| 1932 | 3,327 | 318 | 3,258 | 311 | 2,465 | 19.6 | 2,478 | 19.7 | 264 | 2.1 | 261 | 2.1 |
| 1933 | 3,255 | 309 | 3,103 | 295 | 2,572 | 20.4 | 2,559 | 20.3 | 298 | 2.4 | 297 | 2.4 |
| 1934 | 3,156 | 298 | 3,040 | 287 | 2,392 | 18.8 | 2,383 | 18.8 | 284 | 2.2 | 281 | 2.2 |
| 1935 | 3,081 | 289 | 2,964 | 278 | 2,297 | 17.9 | 2,319 | 18.1 | 267 | 2.1 | 269 | 2.1 |
| 1936 | 3,166 | 295 | 3,081 | 287 | 2,393 | 18.6 | 2,332 | 18.1 | 361 | 2.8 | 344 | 2.7 |
| 1937 | 3,443 | 319 | 3,307 | 306 | 2,273 | 17.5 | 2,332 | 18.0 | 346 | 2.7 | 356 | 2.7 |
| 1938 | 3,424 | 314 | 3,357 | 308 | 2,215 | 16.9 | 2,196 | 16.8 | 355 | 2.7 | 358 | 2.7 |
| 1939 | 3,561 | 324 | 3,415 | 311 | 2,458 | 18.7 | 2,457 | 18.7 | 422 | 3.0 | 393 | 3.0 |
| 1940 | 3,638 | 329 | 3,508 | 317 | 2,514 | 18.9 | 2,483 | 18.7 | 479 | 3.6 | 470 | 3.5 |
| 1941 | 3,839 | 344 | 3,435 | 311 | 2,789 | 20.8 | 2,715 | 20.5 | 465 | 3.5 | 469 | 3.5 |
| 1942 | 4,455 | 395 | 3,484 | 316 | 3,241 | 23.9 | 3,097 | 23.4 | 492 | 3.6 | 484 | 3.7 |
| 1943 | 4,999 | 437 | 3,739 | 346 | 4,135 | 30.1 | 3,959 | 30.6 | 457 | 3.3 | 430 | 3.3 |
| 1944 | 5,365 | 463 | 3,768 | 350 | 3,879 | 27.9 | 3,467 | 26.8 | 541 | 3.9 | 426 | 3.3 |
| 1945 | 5,120 | 438 | 4,295 | 397 | 4,170 | 29.7 | 3,742 | 28.9 | 673 | 4.8 | 555 | 4.3 |
| 1946 | 5,098 | 431 | 4,338 | 374 | 3,597 | 25.3 | 3,542 | 25.5 | 687 | 4.8 | 632 | 4.5 |
| 1947 1/ | 5,069 | 420 | 4,542 | 380 | 3,458 | 23.9 | 3,351 | 23.4 | 608 | 4.5 | 645 | 4.5 |
| 1948 2/ | 4,950 | 403 | 4,616 | 379 | 3,250 | 22.0 | 3,295 | 22.5 | 483 | 3.3 | 494 | 3.4 |

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Tentative indications as of September 1948.

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